

ACOUSTIC SWITCH WITH ELECTRONIC SWITCHING CAPABILITY
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A microphone construction for use in a hearing aid includes a housing with first and second acoustic passages in communication with a microphone retaining chamber and acoustic openings in an exterior surface. A microphone, disposed within the microphone retaining chamber, has a first acoustic port in an acoustic relationship with the first acoustic passage and a second acoustic port in an acoustic relationship with the second acoustic passage. A first and second set of electrical leads are disposed within the housing. A switching mechanism secured to the housing and is positionable between a first position and a second position. In the first position, the first and second acoustic passages are in an acoustic receptive state and a first electric circuit is completed by connecting the first set of leads with a first connecting element disposed within the switching mechanism while breaking a second circuit. In the second position, either the first or the second acoustic passage are in an acoustic receptive state while the other acoustic passage is acoustically plugged and a second connecting element within the switching mechanism completes a second electric circuit by connecting the second set of leads while breaking the first circuit.